



# First Universalist Great Gatherings 2014

## 8. **Story of a Peace Camp Friday, March 14th, 7:30**

Songs, stories and slides from Timmon Wallis

Tim spent 4 years living outside a nuclear missile base in England during the 1980s. He will describe his amazing adventures there through a programme of original songs accompanied by slides, videos and posters. Hilariously funny as well as inspirational! Takes place at First Universalist. \$15 each. Maximum 40 people.



## 10. **The Great N. American Chili Bash Sun, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Hosted by Guy and Jean Johnson

What better way to counteract Minnesota's snowy March than to commiserate with an enlightened group of First U'ers over steaming bowls of the original comfort food – CHILI! The menu will feature hot and mild versions of our delicious Cincinnati-style chili, white bean & chicken chili, homemade corn bread and dessert. Adult and non-adult beverages will abound. The Chili Bash became an annual tradition at our former church in Kalamazoo Michigan – come and find out why! 3801 West 28th Street, Minneapolis. \$25 per person. Maximum 16 people.



## 11. **Re-Visioning You Mon, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8pm**

Hosted by Krista Post, Licensed Psychologist

Do you need to jump-start yourself, address a problem, overhaul your attitude, or dip into that "bucket list"? We will use guided imagery, brainstorming, journaling exercises, etc, to clarify direction, make action guided step plan, and identify/unblock obstacles. No personal sharing necessary. \$35 per person, maximum 8 people. Lake Pointe Corporate Centre, 3100 West Lake Street, Suite 405.



## 12. **Preschooler Pizza Party! Sat, March 22nd, 4:30-8pm**

Hosted by James and Victoria Schanen



Has this snowy and cold winter got you and your preschooler(s) down? Finding yourself at loose ends on a Saturday afternoon with nothing to cook and little ones suffering from cabin fever? Throw on your jackets and head over to the Schanens for a Preschooler Pizza Party! Watch as your kids delight in playing with "new toys" and relax with other parents. Not to worry about cooking dinner...the pizza will be in plentiful supply with gluten-free pizza available. Younger & older siblings welcome, though our toy selection is catered to the 1 -5 yr old set. :) \$20 per family. Maximum 6 families.

## 13. **Knitting and Smorgasbord Sat, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11-4**

Hosted by Barbara Melom



Join other UU knitters for an afternoon of knitting and enjoying the tastes and flavors of a (non-veg) Danish Smorgasbord luncheon. You will leave with a skein of yarn and a hat pattern. Maximum 4 people, \$40 per person.

## 14. **Women's Legacy Writing Weekend March 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

Hosted by Cathy Manning



A weekend of reflection, writing, sharing experiences, and relaxation at a beautiful log home on 20 acres in Northern Wisconsin. Includes all meals, participants help with chores on departure. 9 women maximum, \$125 per person.

## 15. **Pot Sticker Making Party Sat, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 10-2**

Hosted by Tracy Yue



Fun family activity! Tracy will show you how to make Chinese meat & vegetarian potstickers and then we'll share a meal together. You will also take some potstickers home. Each family is asked to bring a small dessert or fruit; lemon water & Chinese tea will be provided. Note, pot stickers are not gluten-free. At church. \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. 30 person max.

### 17. **Game Lovers Unite! Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 3-9pm**

Hosted by Lisa Sinclair

Join other board, paper, card, domino game lovers for an afternoon and evening of games. Bring a game to teach or play some from my collection. Includes snacks and supper. Stay after supper for more games if you just can't bear to stop. Adults only. Maximum number of people to attend: 18, Price per person: \$20/person. Lisa's House 4836 4th Avenue South, Mpls.



### 19. **Composting for Everyone Thurs, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9**

Hosted by Joanna Bakken

You will learn how to make rich compost while reducing the amount of garbage going to the landfill by 50%. Between hot composters and worm bins, you will have compost and worm castings to help you produce beautiful produce, plus have happy houseplants. Your plants will be the envy of everyone! Takes place at Church. Maximum number of people 12. \$15 per person.



### 21. **Unofficial Rock Climbing Lesson Fri, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

from Doug Gordon

Join Doug at Vertical Endeavors, located on 26th and Nicollet (Eat Street), in Minneapolis and benefit from his 20 years of rock climbing experience as he shares techniques and provides individual coaching. Maximum 4 people, \$30 per person. Cost of entry and equipment not included.



### 22. **Royal Tea Party Saturday April 12th 3-5pm**

games led by Rick Gravrok, hosted by Molly and Lydia Darsow

For Parents and Kids. Dress in your royal attire and join Lydia Darsow for an afternoon tea party! Snacks, games and "tea" for the children. Real "Tea" for adults! All are encouraged to dress up. Extra crowns and tiaras will be available. At Monterey Cohousing Community in the social room. \$15 per child, parents free. Maximum 16 people.



### 23. **Singing Coach Party Saturday, April 12th, 7pm**

Hosted by Ann Kay and Bill Jones

Everyone can improve their singing accuracy! Come try out an amazing free software, see your voice compared to the actual pitches of a song as you sing it. Works for both uncertain and practiced singers. \$20 per person, 12 people maximum.



### 24. **Why is there a Wooden Street? April 19<sup>th</sup>, 10-3 or June 28<sup>th</sup> 10-3**

Led by Larry and Pat Gottschalk

Gift yourself or a friend with this surprising and delightful tour of the 57 best sites of Minneapolis and St. Paul. We'll start in the church parking lot with designer coffee furnished from Dunn Brothers. The tour goes around the lakes, through Uptown, downtown, U of MN, Minnehaha Falls, Fort Snelling. Then down Grand Avenue, St. Paul, for lunch at Café Latte (at your own expense), down Summit Avenue for some stories about the infamous James J. Hill and others, and into downtown St. Paul. You'll learn priceless information along the way, like why Minneapolis has a wooden street. 5 people @ \$30.



### 25. **First U Trivia Challenge Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm**

Hosted by Rev.Elaine Aron Tenbrink and Lauren Wyeth

Is your head filled with facts, data, and other bits of information that most people would consider useless? Do you know the state birds for all 50 states? If you can answer "yes" to questions like these, then it's time to the First Universalist Trivia Challenge! After an hour of light appetizers, non-alcoholic drinks and social time, the game kicks off at 7 pm. Teams of 6 players will compete, answering 4 rounds of 10 trivia questions. You and 5 other people can register as a team, or you can register as an individual and join to be assigned to a team on the evening of the event. At the end of the evening, the soon-to-be-coveted First Universalist Trivia Challenge Trophy will be awarded to the team that answers the most questions correctly. Each guest is asked to bring a light appetizer. Childcare will be provided with advance notice. Join us in this lighthearted (yet, let's be honest, somewhat competitive) celebration of useless knowledge! Appetizers and socializing from 6-7. Game begins at 7. In the Social Hall.



## 26. **Quilting as a Spiritual Practice Sat, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 12-5**

Hosted by Carolyn Liebler

Spiritual benefits of stitching include: meditating & practicing inner peace, connecting with others, up-cycling, expressing emotions, and channeling creativity in a way that is both useful and beautiful. Come learn quilting techniques, including: choosing fabric (a bounty of fabric is provided), machine stitching the top, designing the hand quilting pattern, doing the hand quilting, and finishing with a binding. We will also use writings of spiritually-centered stitchers to consider ways in which quilting can be a spiritual practice. Men, women, and teens are all encouraged to attend! Snacks provided. Place: Carolyn's home, 2007 Laurel Ave., St Paul. \$40, maximum 6 people.



## 27. **Beginning Android Sat, April 26th 1-4pm**

Getting the Most Out of an Android Phone or Tablet Computer, hosted by Judy Goebel

Do you have an Android smart phone or tablet computer? You know how to do a few, simple things like turn it on and perhaps make a call, but you know there is a LOT more you could be doing. This class for beginners will cover some information about Android, will show you how to personalize your device and will discuss where and how to get apps and which ones are cool. Bring your phone or tablet computer. Judy Goebel, veteran of 30 years in information technology and former national customer service hotline manager, teaches this class at several suburban senior centers and Richfield/Bloomington community education. 8 person maximum, adults only, \$40 per person. At church.



## 29. **Soup, Stanzas and Sunset May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9pm**

Hosted by Nancy Gaschott and Mark Ritchie

Bring a favorite poem to read, and come right from work if you want, to our house for a delicious supper and a chance to share your favorite poem --and hear others. Weather permitting, you'll enjoy a lovely view of the sun setting over Lake Calhoun. Poetry-admiring children are welcome. Gaschott/Ritchie Home, 20 adults and related children. \$50 per adult.



## 32. **Flameless Brain Men's Meeting Fri, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

hosted by Mark Johnson

Fire Marshall restrictions have put a damper on the burning portion of the Flaming Brain Men's Meeting. While we will have a few token flaming objects, the focus of this male only gathering will be tossing or rolling your own dough for home made pizza. Pizza dough, toppings and liquid refreshments provided. Johnson's House -St Anthony Village, Maximum 10 people, \$15 per person.





### 33. **Bouncing Taquilla Taco Night Sat, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Hosts: Roberta Gibbons & Dyne Stephenson, Amy & Dave Marquardt and Sara & Kris Johnson

Kid friendly event! Join us for tacos, trampoline and margaritas. Bounce at own risk! GF, veggie and meat options available. 4133 Garfield Ave, Minneapolis. \$60 per family, maximum 5 families.



### 34. **Champagne Brunch Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1pm**

Hosted by Gretchen Pinsonneault

Enjoy fun, food and fellowship at an elegant champagned brunch. 6859 Langford Drive, Edina. 8 person maximum, \$40 per person.



### 36. **Nalbinding Class Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1pm**

Hosted by Judy Goebel

Spend a Saturday afternoon trying the stone age fiber craft of Nalbinding that is still in use in several parts of the world. Nalbinding is the ancestor of knitting and crochet. The materials are inexpensive and finished articles can be cut without unraveling! Your instructor, Judy Goebel teaches fiber classes at fiber festivals in the Midwest, Weavers Guild and local community continuing education. You will learn one of the simple nalbinding stitches and will make a small bag or other simple article. Students will receive a handout with instructions and a list of resources and videos on the web. No prior experience is needed. A materials list for what to bring will be sent to you before the class (these should cost less than \$10 but are not included in the price). This class is NOT suitable for children below the age of 12. At Church. 8 person maximum, \$40 per person.



### 39. **Interplay and light lunch June 7<sup>th</sup>, 10-12**

Hosted by the "Moving Spirits" Friendship Group

Men as well as women most welcome (!) for a morning of Interplay led by Hannah Mitchell followed by a light lunch. Interplay is for all bodies, all ages, no movement experience necessary. Experience the mystery and wonder of having it all: Body and Spirit. Interplay is life embodied, putting body and soul together with ease and story. Bring yourself and WILLINGNESS for safe sanctuary in community. Play desire helpful but not necessary. Takes place at church.



#### 42. **Great Gathering in the Garden Sun, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

Hosted by Mary Weeks

Lunch, followed by leisurely tour and discussion with Hennepin County Master Gardener about the essential nature of native plants (and a few aliens, too). Take home a plant for your own garden! Bring your gardening questions and challenges as well. Appropriate for both novice and experienced gardeners. 4740 Beard Ave. S., Minneapolis. \$20 per person (including older teens) for maximum of 20 people.



#### 44. **Family Make Your Own Pizza Night June 21<sup>st</sup> 5-10pm**

Hosted by Lisa and Stewart Haugen

Come over and join us in pizza making! Each person will have the opportunity to craft their own personal pizza with just the perfect toppings for them! We will stretch our dough, put on our sauce of choice and toppings and grill or bake it. If you do not want to make your own, you can rely on one of our chefs to help you turn out the perfect creation. Then, settle down for a possibly outdoor (weather permitting) showing of a family friendly movie and perhaps some s'mores and popcorn to go with it! Fun for all ages. There will be a kids play area in the basement so they can go wild. We can even do gluten free if that is requested, just let us know! 3217 Aldrich Ave South Minneapolis, Disclosure: 2 small dogs live at the Haugen home. They love kids. Maximum 20 people, \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.



#### 45. **Cricket! Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2-5pm**

Hosted by the Berrys – Umesh, Pam, Jason (12) and Katelyn (10)

Tired of the same old baseball, basketball, football? Check out Cricket, a baseball-like game, only better! Come discover for yourself why it is played with such passion all over the world. There will be a lesson given by Umesh, who played cricket pretty much every day growing up. The lesson will be followed by practice and then a game. Children ages 8 or higher are welcome. Cricket equipment (bat, ball, wickets, bails, etc.), beverages, and snacks will be provided. 16 people maximum. 3 hour game. Summer date and location to be determined. \$20 adults, \$10 kids.



#### 47. **“Play with Your Food” Sat, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

Hosted by Lisa and Stewart Haugen

Have you ever tasted a caprese salad with just-made-momentsago mozzarella cheese and freshly harvested tomatoes and basil? This is what we are going for with this dinner. This will be a hands on experience, with fresh local items, freshly assembled and eaten as soon as they are prepared. Menu will be a 5 course event, with wines to accompany each course. Vegetarians welcome. We will serve meat items, but will be able to accommodate with a no meat version. Possible menu items: Hand pulled Mozzarella cheese caprese salads, hand made grilled pizzas, Mediterranean clams, grilled fruit compote, rustic tapenade, etc, etc. 3217 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis. \$75 per person, 10 people maximum.



#### 48. **Women’s Literary Retreat August 23rd-24<sup>th</sup>**

Hosted by Kathy Coskran

Gather at the Coskran cabin on Lake Mille Lacs, two hours north of the Twin Cities for a weekend of literary conversation, sharing literary treasures, doing a bit of writing, eating and laughing together. You’ll receive some suggested readings prior to the weekend and be asked to bring at least one book, story, or poem to recommend to others..! (It is a cabin with spacious common areas and efficient (i.e., small) sleeping areas—2 people will be in a top bunk.)! bring at least one book, story, or poem to recommend to others. We will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday the 23rd, and depart after lunch on Sunday, the 24th! \$125 per person, 8 people women maximum.



#### 52. **Get Creative! Women’s Weekend Sept 26 –28**

Hosted by Sherry Kempf

Come spend a weekend rejuvenating yourself. Relax, read, walk our outdoor hilltop labyrinth, work on a project, write, hike and nap! We have a house on 30 acres in the bluff country south of Red Wing, about one and a half hours south of Minneapolis. Meals provided by host except Saturday evening meal -potluck to be arranged with all participants. Number of women: Approximately 6, depending on sleeping arrangements: There is one double bed, two single beds, an outdoor sleeping porch (double futon), a double mattress that can be placed on the floor, and additional floor space for inflatable mattresses, etc. \$75 per person.

